Amendments to the Drawings:

Please cancel/delete the four original sheets which include original Figure 1, Figs 2 and 3, Figure 4 and Figure 4A.

The attached four sheets replace the original sheets including Fig. 1, Figs. 2 and 3, Fig. 4, and Fig. 4A. In the amended Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and 4A reference numerals have been added to previously undesignated components. No new matter has been added to the drawings.

Attachment: 4 Replacement Sheets of Drawings
4 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes From The Original.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 8-9, 11, 13-15, 17-21, 23, 25-26 are pending in the application.

Claims 3-7, 10, 12, 22, 24, and 27-35 were previously withdrawn.

Claim 16 was previously cancelled.

In the Specification:

The Specification is amended herein to add new Paragraph 33.1. New Paragraph 33.1 provides a written description of and reference numbers for elements of the invention that are plainly visible in original Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 4A, and whose function would have been readily understood by persons of ordinary skill in the art upon viewing the original figures. The recognition of these components and the understanding of their functions would have been aided by portions of the original Specification. See for example Paragraphs 8, 16, 17, 29, 31, and 33 (paragraph numbers used throughout are those from published application US 2004/0047745, which differ from the paragraph numbering used in the as-filed specification). Therefore, new paragraph 33.1 contains no new matter.

In the Drawings:

Four replacement sheets are submitted herein to replace the original sheets including Fig. 1, Figs. 2 and 3, Fig. 4, and Fig. 4A. In the amended Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and 4A new reference numerals have been added to previously undesignated, but plainly visible, components. No new components or details have been added to the drawings. These components designated with the new reference numerals are those named, designated, and described in new paragraph 33.1 and do not constitute new matter.

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 13-21, and 23 stand rejected as anticipated by or in the alternative obvious over one or the other of US 5,300,178 to Nelson or US 5,328,096 to Stenge alone or in view of US 4,712,983 to Moynihan, or in view of US 1,998,338

to Spohrer. Additionally claims 13, 15-19, 23, 25, and 26 stand rejected as unpatentable over US 6,094,773 to Krentz in view of Moynihan.

In reply, Applicants file the accompanying Request for Continued Examination and amend independent claims 1 and 13 to require that the claimed hand portable air compressor assembly comprise an air tank, an air compressor, a shroud, and a lifting handle, and that the shroud substantially enclose both the air tank and the air compressor. In so doing the Applicants have amended the claims to focus on the embodiments of Figures 1-4, which discloses a novel, ergonomically friendly, and efficiently assembled arrangement for a hand portable air compressor, wherein all the major components of the hand portable air compressor assembly are enclosed within a shroud (with the exception of some projecting indications and controls) and thus protected from the environment and protected from injury by or to the user of such air compressor assembly. Furthermore, that clamshell type shroud also supports those components by means of interior support elements.

Dependent claims 2 and 20 are amended accordingly and place the limitation to a substantially unpainted air tank in those dependent claims.

New dependent claims 36-44 are added as dependent from independent claim 1. New dependent claims 45-50 are added as dependent from independent claim 13.

A new set of claims 51-67 are submitted for consideration.

The prior art of record do not disclose the claimed invention. Stenge '096 teaches a large spray apparatus 10 including a compressor 18, engine 16, and air tank 20 mounted to a wheeled steel chassis "carrying a cabinet 14." Stenge '096 at col. 2 lines 50-54. Stenge '096 does not teach a lifting handle, a clamshell shroud, or supporting the principal assembly components on the interior of the shroud. Nelson '178 appears to be similarly limited in its teaching, since it only very briefly describes its insulation arrangement as suitable for an air compressor and describes without details a prior art

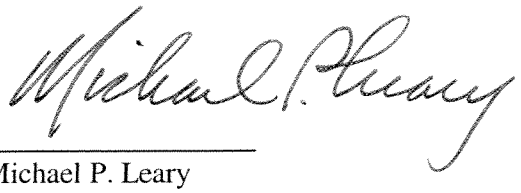
stationary arrangement in Fig. 1 and a prior art wheeled portable arrangement in Fig. 2 thereof. Nelson '178 col. 6 lines 5-26.

Spohrer '338 teaches a shrouded motor 14 and compressor mounted atop a large, but substantially unshrouded, air tank 1. It does not teach or suggest enclosing the associated air tank. The motor and compressor are shown and described as supported by the tank 1, not the shroud 4. Its shroud is described as metallic dome 4. It does not suggest a hand portable assembly and a lifting handle.

Krentz '773 teaches a hand portable cleaning device, but regarding its air compressing function it is sufficient to note that it is serves essentially like an "inflator" – in that it lacks an air storage tank and regulator. "Inflators" encompass a well known category of products that for reasons of cost, weight, and function provide only a small air compressor that discharges air directly to the air load and provide no air tank for storing air to meet temporary demands that exceed the capacity of the compressor. Like the well known inflators, the Krentz device lacks an air storage tank, for storing air at a higher pressure, and an air regulator for releasing the stored air at a lower pressure. See Krentz '773 at col. 5 lines 10-31. Krentz '773 teaches no relevant details about the construction of housing 11.

Moynihan '983 has relevance only as a secondary reference and so the Applicant defers discussion of that reference.

Respectfully submitted



Michael P. Leary
Registration No. 41,144
Attorney for Applicant(s)
March 5, 2007

Michael Leary - TW199
The Black & Decker Corporation
701 East Joppa Road
Towson, Maryland 21286
Telephone: (410) 716-2773

Application No.: 10/601,226
Title: AIR COMPRESSOR ASSEMBLY HAVING ENCLOSED UNPAINTED AIR TANK
Inventor: Robert F. Burkholder et al.
Attorney Docket: P-US-JK-01507A
Annotated Sheets

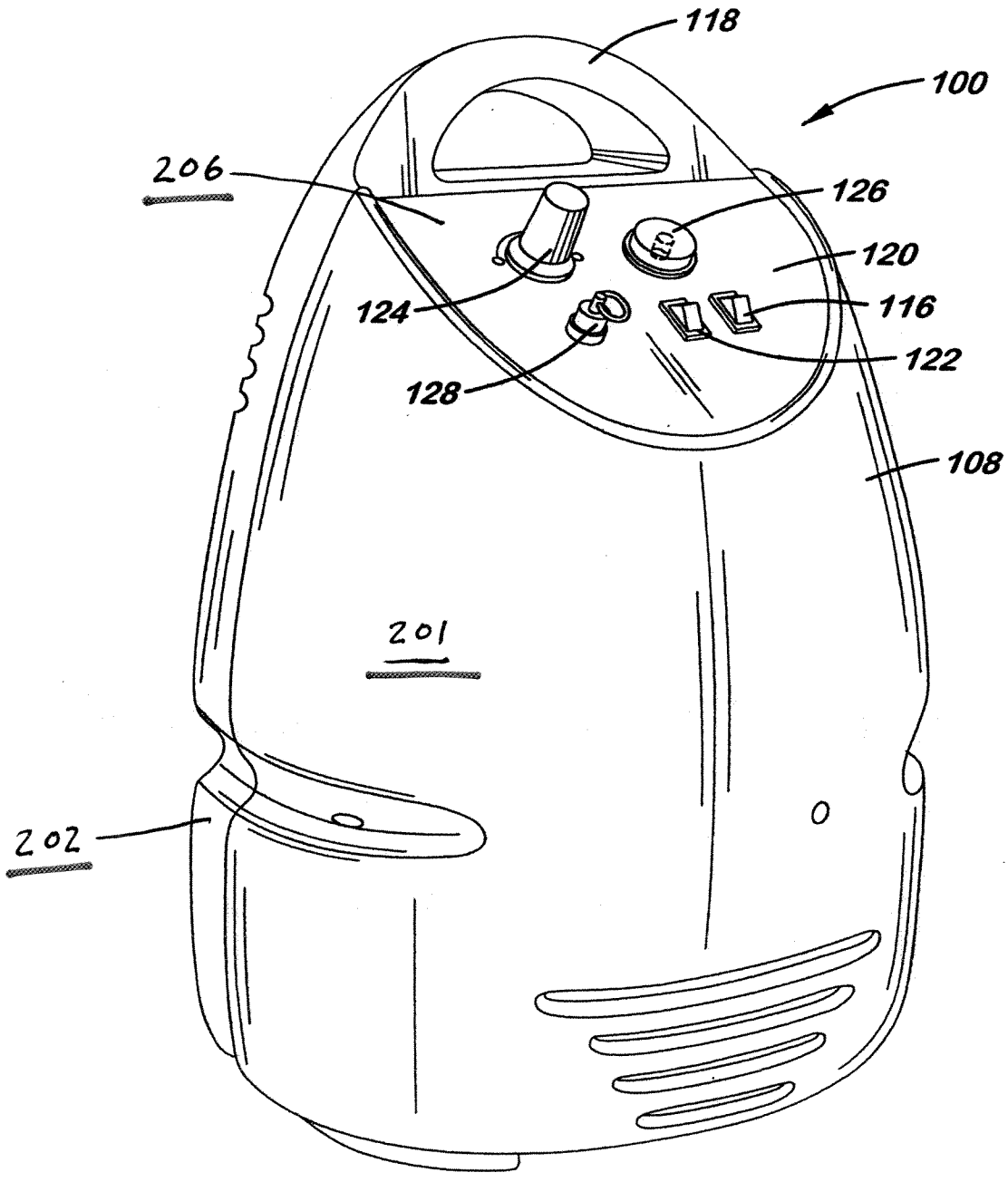


FIG. 1

Application No.: 10/601,226
Title: AIR COMPRESSOR ASSEMBLY HAVING ENCLOSED UNPAINTED AIR TANK
Inventor: Robert F. Burkholder et al.
Attorney Docket: P-US-JK-01507A
Annotated Sheets

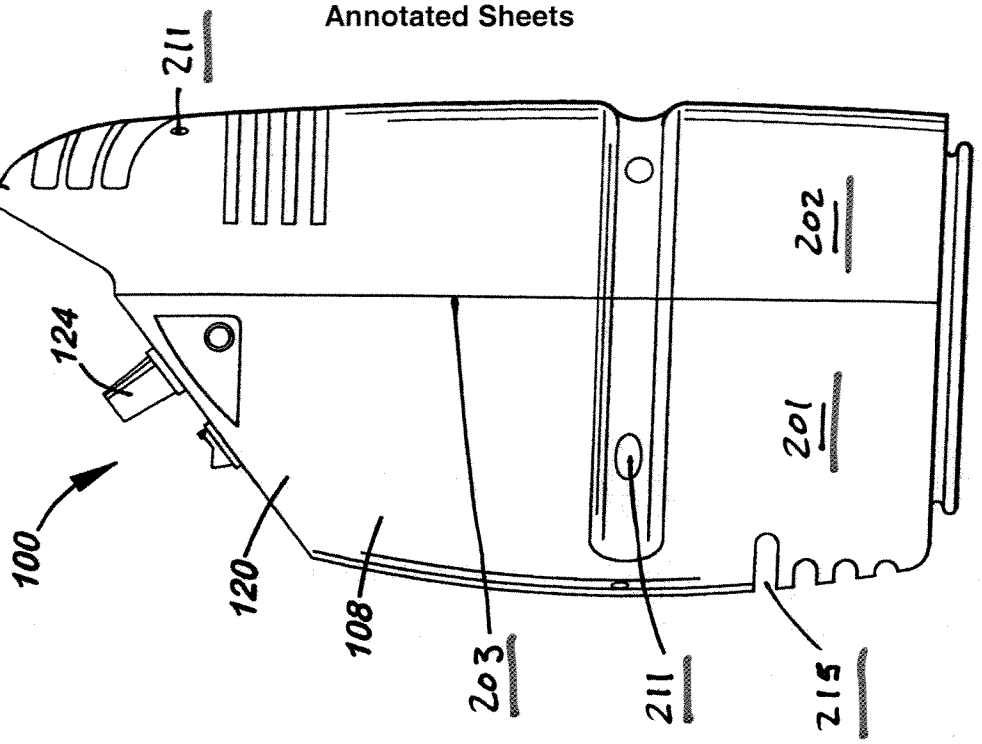


FIG. 3

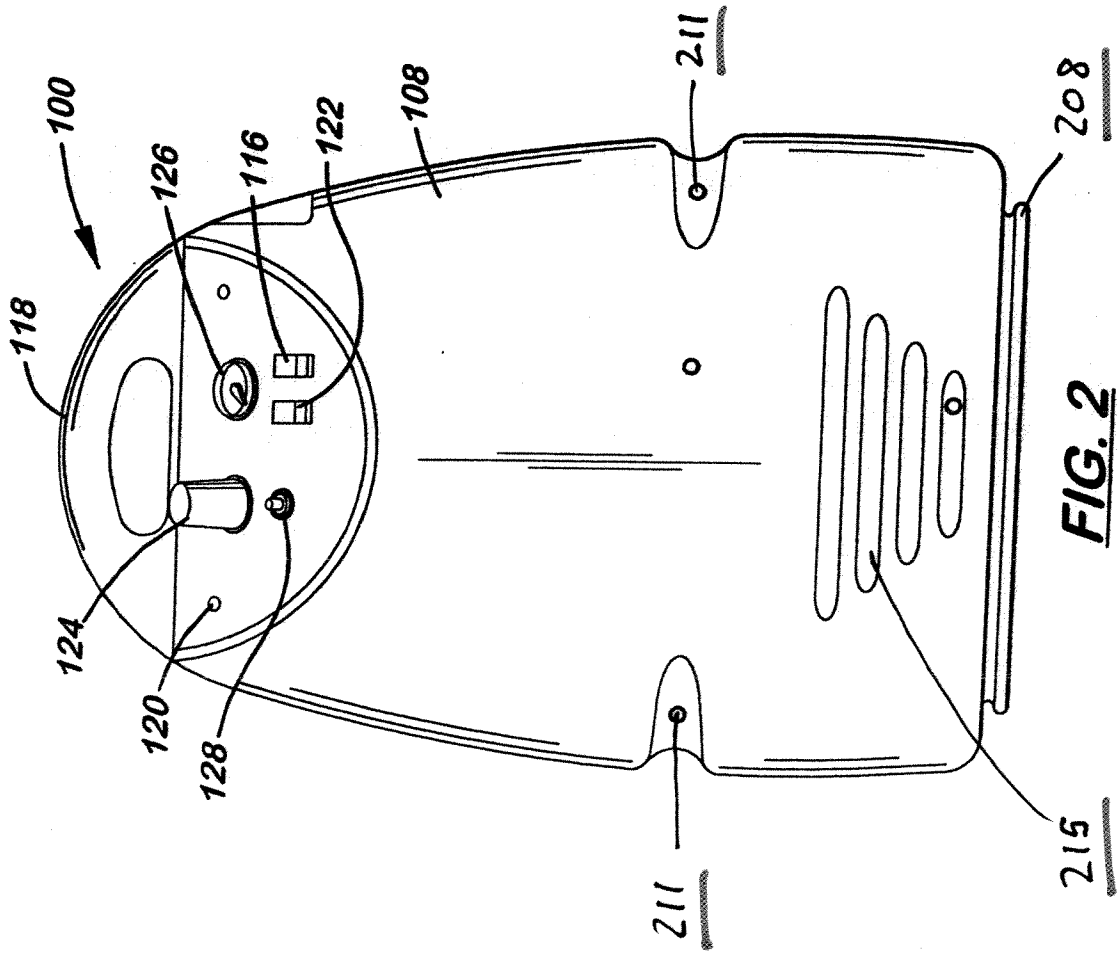


FIG. 2

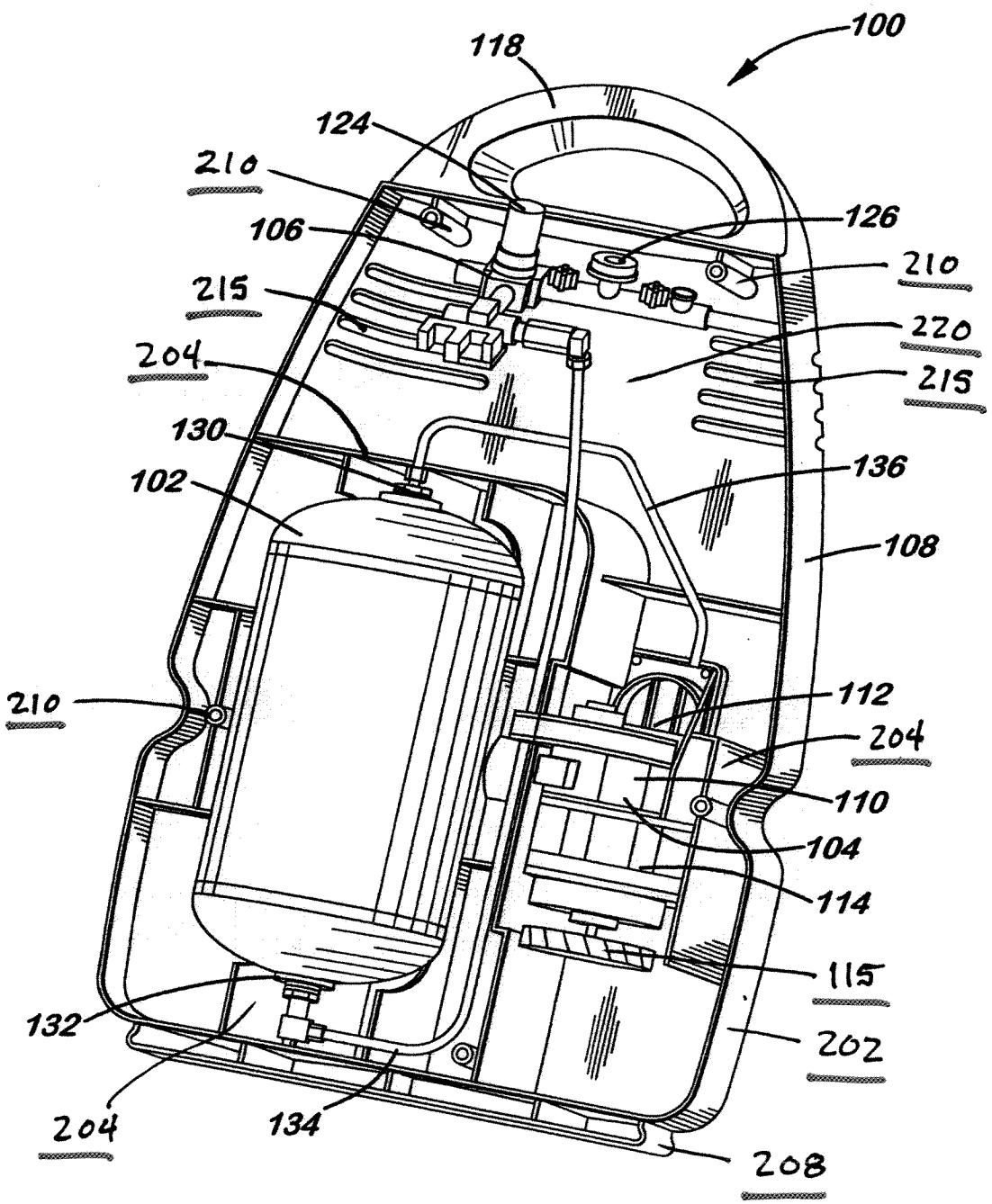

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FIG. 4

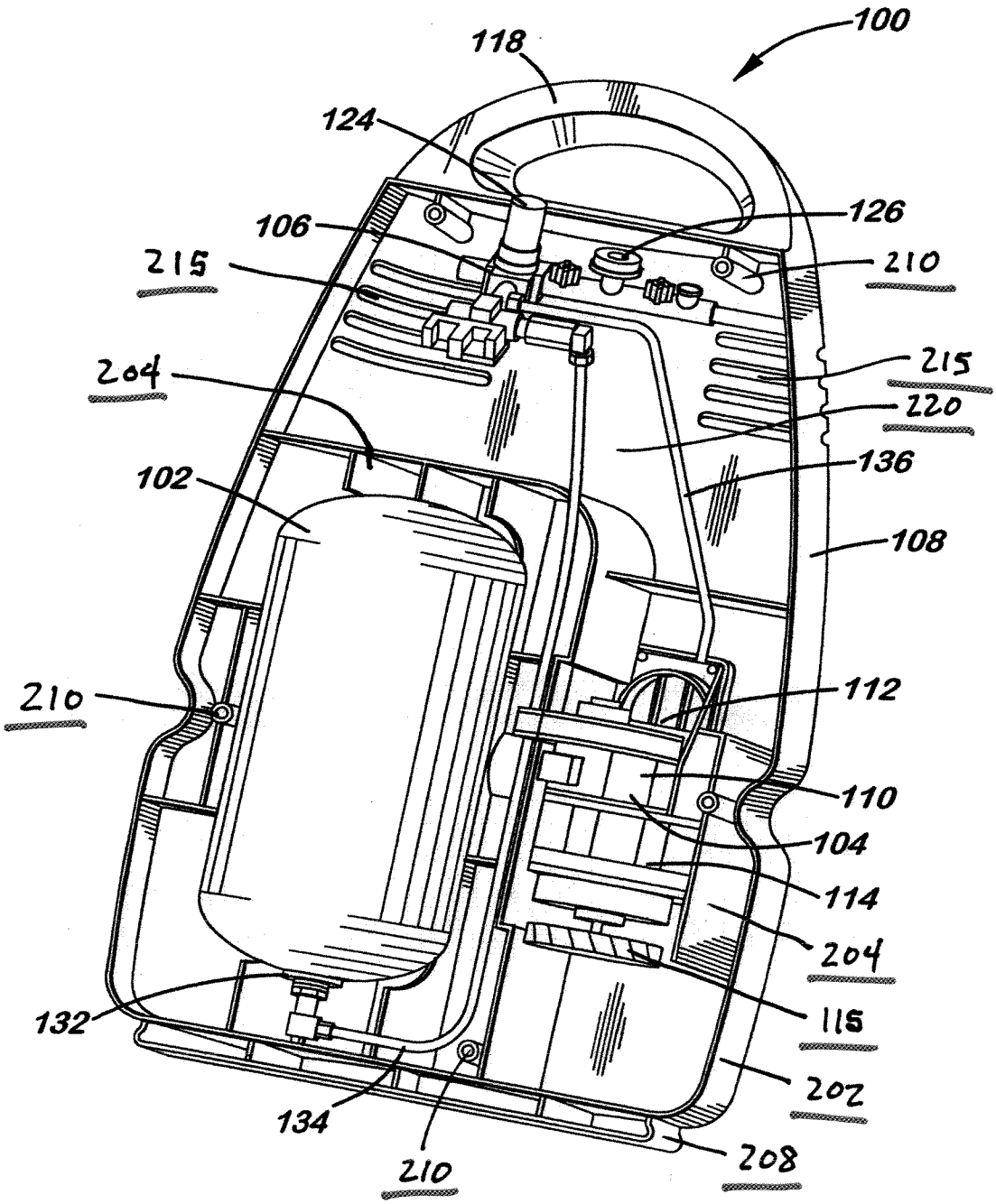
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FIG. 4A